

wherein the bacteria belong to the *Proteobacteria* of the domain Bacteria.

11. (New) The method according to claim 1 comprising generating hydrogen gas by corrosive oxidation of iron, biological fermentation, or electrolysis.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bacteria are supported on a solid surface to support biofilm formation by the bacteria.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12 wherein after the water has been treated by the bacteria on a solid support, the water is percolated through a sand filtration unit.

---

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for removing nitrate from nitrate-contaminated water comprising treating said water in a hydrogen-fed bioreactor with autotrophic, hydrogen-oxidizing denitrifying bacteria.

---

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water.